

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on June 12, 2007. Claims 1-35 were pending in the application. The Examiner indicated that claims 30 and 33-35 contain allowable subject matter, and rejected the remaining claims based on prior art. With this amendment, claims 1-2, 7, 9-17, 19, 22-23, 26 and 28-30 are amended, claim 25 is canceled, and the remaining claims are unchanged in the application.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that reference EP0539965 was not provided with PTO 1449 and therefore was not considered in the Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of that reference is provided along with an additional PTO 1449. The Examiner also acknowledged that the Naitou et al. US Patent No. 5789057 was not relevant.

Also on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure as containing too many words. An amended abstract is provided, containing only 113 words. Applicant thus submits that the abstract is now in proper form.

At the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1, 10, 12-13, 16, 23 and 30 based on a variety of informalities. Those claims have been amended to address the informalities. Therefore, Applicant submits that the claims are now in proper form.

At the middle of page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 33-35 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as not being mentioned in the specification. Applicant submits that these features were present in the specification, particularly with respect to the penalties encountered in applying speller transition rules set out, for example, at page 33, lines 5-26 and page 39, line 24-page 40, line 23. Similarly, the features were clearly and specifically set out in claims 33-35, as originally filed. However, in order to further address the Examiner's concerns, language very similar to the original claim language has been included in the specification.

On pages 3-6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. §101 based on the specification's definition of the computer readable media as including a carrier wave or other modulated data signal. Applicant has amended independent claim 17 to

now be drawn to “a tangible computer readable medium...”. Therefore, as suggested by the Examiner on page 6, this specifically sets forth a physical medium.

On page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 8-19, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Bass et al. US Patent No. 4,701,851. Of the rejected claims, claims 1, 17 and 26 are independent claims.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for identifying at least two component words in a compound word. The method receives the compound word, searches a lexicon for the compound word, and identifies component words for the compound word based on the entries contained in the lexicon. However, claim 1 has been specifically amended to state that the lexicon includes word entries that are annotated with associated segmentation information indicative of whether the associated word can form a component of a compound word. In other words, the entries in the lexicon contain at least two items. The first item is the word in the lexicon, and the second item is an annotation of segmentation information that indicates whether the associated word in the entry can be a component of a compound word. Claim 1 has also been amended to state that identifying the compound words is performed based on the entries contained in the lexicon, including the annotated word entries. Thus, the word entries are matched by considering not only the word itself, but the annotation information that indicates whether the word can be part of a compound word. This is simply neither taught nor suggested by the references cited by the Examiner.

At page 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserted that Bass discloses checking to determine whether a component word has “an anti-segment identifier”. In asserting this, the Examiner pointed to column 5, line 59-column 6, line 5 of Bass. However, this citation refers to the system in Bass setting a flag when it finds a matching segment in the lexicon. In other words, if the system in Bass is searching for the word “time” (which is part of the word “overtime”) and it finds the word “time” in the lexicon, then it sets a flag to indicate that it has found a match. If it is searching for the segment “ime” and it does not find that segment in the lexicon, then it does not set the flag.

Of course, this does not relate, in any way, to what the entries in the lexicon look like. In fact, Bass appears to specifically say that the entries in the lexicon are simply words. There is no mention or suggestion, whatsoever, that the entries include segmentation information indicating whether the given entry can act as a portion of a compound word. This is simply neither taught nor suggested by Bass. The citation pointed to by the Examiner is simply a flag that is set by the searching algorithm when it finds a matching entry in the lexicon. It has nothing to do with the lexicon itself containing identification information indicating whether the word in the entry can form a part of a compound word. This is simply neither taught nor suggested by Bass.

Since independent claim 1 specifically states that the lexicon has entries that not only include a word, but segmentation information indicating whether that word can form a part of a compound word, and since claim 1 further states that identifying the components of the compound word is performed based on the entries, including the annotated word entries, in the lexicon, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is allowable over Bass. Applicant thus submits that dependent claims 2-16, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1, are allowable as well. Claims 2, and 9-16 have been amended for the sake of clarity and consistency.

At page 17 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claim 30 was allowable because the prior art references “fail to specifically disclose, alone or in combination with other prior art references..., if the component word has the anti-segment identifier searching the entry in the lexicon for the component word to identify variations that do not include the anti-segment identifier; and if a variation of the component word does not include the anti-segment identifier, suggesting that variation of the component word as the spelling suggestion for the compound word.” Applicant acknowledges that this is neither taught nor suggested by the references cited by the Examiner and thanks the Examiner for the acknowledgment as to allowable subject matter.

However, Applicant has amended independent claim 17 to include a somewhat broader limitation, but which is still neither taught nor suggested by the references cited by the

Examiner. Independent claim 17, as with independent claim 1, specifically states that the entries in the lexicon include “words and associated segmentation indicators indicating whether the associated word can be a component part of a compound word...”. Claim 17 also states that identifying component words is performed by matching the first and second portions of the compound words with entries in the lexicon “that can be a component of a compound word, as indicated by the associated segmentation indicator...”. Claim 17 goes on to state that “if either the first or second portions of the compound word match words in the entries of the lexicon, but the associated segmentation indicator in either of the matched entries indicates that the associated word cannot be a component of a compound word, then searching for a variation of the associated word in the lexicon that has a segmentation indicator indicating the variation can be a component of a compound word.”

Thus, while claim 17 is broader than allowable claim 30, it still includes the feature that the lexicon entries are annotated with segmentation information that indicates whether the associated word can be part of a compound word. It also includes the feature that if a portion of the compound word input by the user matches the word in a lexicon entry, but that lexicon entry cannot be used as part of a compound word (as indicated by the segmentation indicator) then the system looks for variations of that word that can be used as part of a compound word. This is simply neither taught nor suggested by the either of the references cited by the Examiner, and the Examiner has not pointed to any portion of the reference that includes these limitations. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 17 is allowable as well. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 18-24, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 17, are also allowable. Claims 19, and 22-23 have been amended for the sake of clarity and consistency.

Independent claim 26 is drawn to a method of spell checking a compound word. The method includes searching a lexicon for the compound word wherein “the lexicon includ[es] entries having a word and an indicator indicating whether the associated word can be a component of a compound word...”. The method also includes, if the compound word cannot be found in the lexicon, then identifying component words comprising the compound words,

comparing each of the identified component words with entries in the lexicon, “determining if each of the component words is correctly used as a component of a compound word based on the indicator in matched entries in the lexicon; and if at least one of the identified component words is used incorrectly, indicating that the compound word includes a spelling error.”

Neither of the references, either alone or in combination, teach searching an annotated lexicon as set out in independent claim 26. Further, neither of the references teach that the spell checker determines whether component words of a compound word are correctly used as components of a compound word based on an indicator in the annotated lexicon that indicates whether a matching entry can be used as a portion of a compound word. The annotated lexicon is simply not disclosed by the references, and therefore determining whether a portion of a compound word can be correctly used in a compound word based on the annotated lexicon cannot be disclosed either. Thus, Applicant submits that independent claim 26 is allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 27-32, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 26, are allowable as well.

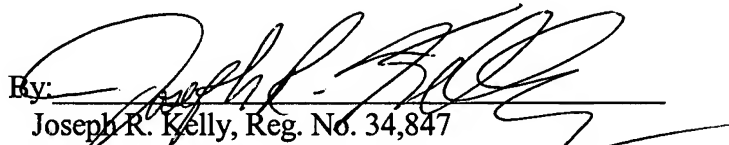
Applicant further wishes to acknowledge, with thanks, the indication by the Examiner that claims 33-35 contain allowable subject matter.

In conclusion, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 17 and 26 are allowable over the references cited by the Examiner. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 2-16, 18-24 and 27-35, which depend from the independent claims, are allowable as well. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-24 and 26-35 are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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